

HB 3427 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: Bradley Volk, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/6, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the owner or operator of a dam with a high hazard rating to develop an emergency action plan with the Water Resources Department (WRD), the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and the emergency services agency in the county where the dam is located. Directs WRD to determine the frequency of emergency response exercises at such dams, in consultation with OEM and the local emergency services agency. Requires WRD to inspect such dams annually, unless it determines that a different inspection schedule is appropriate and adequate to ensure the seismic safety of the dam.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact statement issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Modifies inspection requirement, removing "and is adequate to ensure the seismic safety of the dam" to permit WRD to inspect high hazard dams annually unless it determines that a different inspection schedule is appropriate. Adds language that the measure does not apply to a dam that is regulated under the dam safety program of a federal agency.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has dams of many different sizes and uses. Some dams are for generating power and are very large, and most are quite small and used to create ponds. Oregon has approximately 1300 large dams that store water for many purposes and more than 10,000 smaller dams which make ponds for waterfowl, livestock, and irrigation of crops. Oregon currently has 75 state regulated high-hazard dams; 58 of those have emergency action plans and 13 have early warning systems.

House Bill 3427 defines high hazard dams as those where loss of human life is expected should the dam fail, and requires owners or operators of such dams to develop emergency action plans. The measure further directs the Water Resources Department to determine the frequency for conducting emergency response exercises at high hazard dams and to inspect them annually unless a different schedule is determined to be appropriate.